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Army Col. Joyce Stevens, Base Operations commander at Bagram Airfield, and Army Master Sgt. Constance Petitjean, also with Base Ops, talk with the director of the Kapisa Provincial Women's Center with the help for an interpreter Oct.

Photo by Army Sgt. Tara Teel CJTF-76 Public Affairs

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Cover: Army Sgt. Paul Hardy, an explosive ordnance clearing agent attached to B Company. from C Co., 391st Engineer Battalion, uses a metal detector to find a potential hazard pinpointed by the Husky mine detection vehicle.

Photo by Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio 20th Public Affairs Detachment







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Elizabeth (left) and Juanita Rodriguez are sisters stationed together at Camp Chapman, Afghanistan. They are both Automated Logistics Specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Mechanized Infantry Unit.

Sisters make the most of their deployment

By Army Spc. Laura E. Griffin Task Force Devil Public Affairs

CAMP CHAPMAN, Afghanistan - Specialits Elizabeth and Juanita Rodriguez are sharing more than the same laugh, the same job, and the same last name these days.

They are also sharing an experience that has brought them closer as sisters. They are both stationed at Camp Chapman, Afghanistan, during their deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom VI.

The Rodriguez's, both National Guard automated logistics specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Mechanized Infantry Unit out of Lubbock, Texas, never dreamed that they would be deployed together.

"We got mobilized together, we trained for our deployment together, and we left home together...," said Juanita, 24.

"...But I was supposed to go to Iraq," said Elizabeth, 20, finishing her sister's sentence.

That was the first of several expected separations that never happened for the sisters.

Another came when they arrived at Bagram Airfield where they were told that they would be going to separate bases. They were both surprised to see their names on the list to go to Chapman.

"We just think it's so cool that we're together because we know that we're OK," said Elizabeth.

"Yeah, we're getting to share the same experiences," added Juanita. "It's easier on our parents, too, because they know that we're together and can look out after each other."

And look out after each other they do. They have been through several rocket attacks at Chapman and are usually in the same bunker together, but on one occasion the sisters were separated.

"Elizabeth turned to me during a lull in the rockets and said, 'Can I go check on my sister?" said Master Sgt. Rudolfo Martinez, the Civil Affairs Team-B noncommissioned officer in charge. "That really impressed me. It's just an example of the love these sisters have for each other."

The sisters admit that they have spent more time together since they've been deployed than they've spent together in years.

"At home, we don't really hang out or see each other unless we go to our mom's house at the same time," said Juanita. "We haven't lived together for six years. Now we get to have lunch and dinner together every day that we're not on the same guard shift."

Juanita, who had dreamed of being in the military since she was a small girl, was the first of the sisters to join. She signed up in 1999.

In 2001, when Elizabeth was a junior in high school, she called Juanita to ask her opinion on if she should also join the military.

"It was Juanita who convinced me to get the same job as her," said Elizabeth. "I did a split-option enlistment because I was still in high school, so I went to basic training the summer between my junior and senior years and went to (advanced individual training) after graduation."

The Rodriguez's are typical siblings. They share many things in common, but have their own individual personalities.

"We're a lot alike, but we're so different at the same time," said Juanita.

"We're both outspoken, but Juanita's more serious and responsible," said Elizabeth.

"At home, I help to make sure she's squared away for drill," said Juanita.

"Yeah, she plays 'big sister' a lot," said Elizabeth, laughing and elbowing Juanita.

In the evenings after work, the sisters like to do their own things. Juanita likes to hang out with some of the other Soldiers and play volleyball while Elizabeth prefers curling up to a good movie or watching her sister play volleyball from the sidelines.

Like most siblings, they have their quarrels, too.

"Even though we're deployed, we still have our sibling spats," said Juanita.

"We'll be cussing each other out then say, 'Okay, you want to go to lunch?" said Elizabeth.

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Flight crews drop aid into Pakistan

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio 20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

Two C-130 Hercules flight crews left from here Oct. 29 and air dropped an estimated 50,000 pounds of humanitarian supplies to victims of the Oct. 8 earthquake in Pakistan.

Fourteen container delivery system bundles filled with food, water, shelter and supplies descended to people below in need of the items made available.

"As Far as the C-130 goes, you not only have a wartime mission, you have a peacetime mission, and that is was we did today," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Mario Mendizabal, a loadmaster with the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

The Airmen flew into Afghanistan, loaded the aircraft and set out on their peacetime mission to deliver relief aid. They credit their mission success to the preparation, planning and coordination of many other individuals.

"We definitely couldn't have done it without all the support," said Air Force Capt. Nate Dillon, a pilot with the 774th

EAS. "It all worked out with efficient planning."

From planning the route to reviewing training manuals, the crew worked hard to make sure the relief aid would reach its intended target.

"The only thing that was going through my mind was sticking with the checklist because it covers everything; and that's what I did; it covered it step by step," Mendizabal said.

Mendizabal and his fellow loadmaster, Air Force Staff Sgt. Ryan Atkinson, said the training the two received was a point of reference they had to build upon to perform the mission.

"We've both done CDS bundles for training at home with one or two but never 14 all at a time," Mendizabal said. "It's kind of something new for us."

Most of the aircrew had never taken part in a humanitarian relief mission so the experience for them meant something special, they said.

"It's a very rewarding experience," Dillon said, who flew the aircraft for the Oct. 29 mission. "I think I can speak for all of us by saying that."

The experience was good for the crew. "It's something different and breaks up the monotony of what you're used to doing," he said.

However, the change of mission did present its challenges, Dillon said.

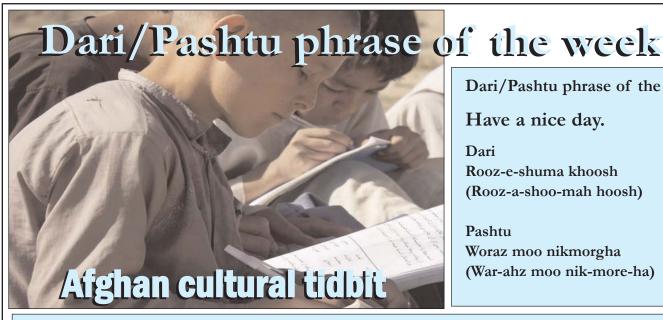
Releasing the cargo on an unfamiliar drop zone is a difficult thing to accomplish, he said, but just like his loadmasters, their training to their deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom proved to be a success for the Airmen.

"We train for this at home in Alaska and you see the same drop zone," Dillon said. "When you go into an unfamiliar route, the terrain is a lot more significant; you have to time everything just right."

The front crew was cool, calm and collected for doing an airdrop on a drop zone they never saw and probably never will see again, Mendizabal said.

Mendizabal said the confidence they gain from the success of their mission will help them face future missions and that this was just part of their job.

"If it's hurricane relief, earthquake relief or tsunami relief, whatever you got for us, we can handle it," he said.



Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:

Have a nice day.

Rooz-e-shuma khoosh (Rooz-a-shoo-mah hoosh)

Pashtu

Woraz moo nikmorgha (War-ahz moo nik-more-ha)

Afghan social occasions are predominantly family and extended family affairs. Picnics are important events on Fridays, the official government and religious holiday for Afghans. Many parties are for either male or female groups, and in rural areas of Afghanistan, if both genders are invited, they often participate separately.

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Female troops visit women's center

By Army Spc.
Tiffany Evans
20th Public Affairs Detachment

MOH MOOD RAQI, Afghanistan - Various women from Combined Joint Task Force-76 met with the director of the Kapisa Provincial Women's Center on Oct. 25 in the village of Moh Mood Raqi to follow up on the center's progress.

"We wanted to discuss ways that the Coalition could help the center," said Col. Joyce Stevens, Base Operations commander, 111th Area Support Group, Texas National Guard.

"The Tri-Province Provincial Reconstruction Team helped them build the center and supply them with some items, but more is needed."

After introductions, the women discussed the daily activities offered by the center and its major needs with the director, Sayfera Qustini.

The goal of Base Operations is to help supply what they can, but to also help the women's center develop ways to fund itself, said Stevens.

"Our main concerns are getting fuel for their generator, a teacher for a computer class, funding for transportation, food to provide for lunch and winter clothes for the staff of 26 people," said Qustini.

"We have computers, but no

teacher for the class and no electricity to use them with because we can't afford to buy fuel."

The women's center offers a daily class to a group of female orphans in reading and writing. These young women are too old to attend school but still want the opportunity to learn, said Qustini.

"While the Taliban was in control of my country I was not allowed to go to school," said Roya, an orphan attending classes at the center.

"I'm happy because now I'm learning, not only how to read and write, but other skills like sewing and hopefully soon how to use a computer."

The center offers sewing and weaving classes, parenting classes, helps women find jobs, teaches them about their rights under the new government, and counsels women and their husbands, said Qustini. Soon they'd like to start classes aimed at educating men on the rights of women.

"As women's roles in Afghanistan change with the new government, clinics like the one in Moh Mood Raqi will be needed to help educate and support the women," said Stevens.

"The meeting was a success and together we are working on ways for them to become self-funding."

Enduring Voices

How do you communicate with your family?



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Bolling, VAQ 134

"Usually I communicate with my family through e-mail from work, and I try use the morale phones as much as possible."



Army Spc. Dwane Liddlelow, F Company, 159th Aviation

"I try to chat on the internet, phone home and send e-mails whenever I can."



Army Sgt. Mike Anderson 2-6 Cavalry Regiment

"I try to make a phone calls daily, because it is the best source of motivation while I am out here. I also try to send an e-mail at least once a week."



Army Sgt. 1st Class Almandi Kidd, Task Force Sabre

"I use the DSN line outside of work to call home, and it helps that my family is near Columbus Air Force Base, and I e-mail as much as I can"



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Engineers repair Bagram runway

By Air Force Capt. James H. Cunningham 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

Age, weather and more than 3,000 operations every week take their toll on the busiest runway in Afghanistan. Without a continual effort to repair the runway here, the mission would virtually come to a halt.

A nine-man spall repair team from the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron spends at least two hours every day maintaining the runway. A spall is a shallow break in the concrete, usually along a joint.

"We've made more than 200 repairs in the last two months," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Benbrook, noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield maintenance who's deployed here from Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

"This is an on going effort to support the mission until the new runway is completed."



Air Force Senior Airman Robert Muth, heavy equipment operator, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron spall repair crew, uses a concrete saw to repair the runway at Bagram Airfield.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Rick Whiting, heavy equipment journeyman, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, opens a can of concrete-repair mortar.

"The 455th ECES airfield repair team mission is critical to our operations at Bagram. Without constant runway repair, Bagram flight operations will stop within a few days or risk significant damage to fixed-wing aircraft," said Lt. Col. Mark Danigole, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander. "Without their tremendous effort, Bagram drops from 140,000 operations a year -- three times (that of) Ramstein Air Base, Germany - and becomes little more than a huge parking lot."

The amount of work accomplished is even more impressive when taking into account all that repairs are made between arriving and departing flights on a fully active runway; it's an effort that requires total team coordination.

"Our deputy operations group commander, Lt. Col. Mark Danigole, has worked tirelessly to understand and minimize the effect unscheduled landings and takeoffs have on moving teams off the runway during the middle of repair operations," said Lt. Col.

Stephen Becker, the commander of the 455th ECES.

"His actions signify the close working relationship my squadron has with the wing, other groups and airfield management to ensure repair operations are prioritized and executed in a highly efficient manner."

To make the repair, Airmen saw a square around the spall, jackhammer away the bad concrete, vacuum up the debris, then fill the hole with a quick-drying mortar mix.

Within 30 minutes, the repair is dried and ready for aircraft to land on.

Bagram's runway supports critical combat and humanitarian missions. The repairs keep the spall's loose debris from damaging aircraft engines or tires.

"What we do has a direct impact on the mission," said Staff Sgt. Brady Dryden, NCOIC of spall repair crew.

"Without us, the aircraft couldn't do their job. It makes us feel like we're part of what's going on here at Bagram." Page 8 Freedom Watch

Sappers elin



Army Sgt. Paul Hardy, an explosive ordnance-clearing agent attached to B Company from C Co., uses a knife to probe beneapointed by a Husky mine detection vehicle.



Army Sgt. Joseph Plant, a squad leader and sapper who disarms or blows up IEDs for the route-clearing package, views a screen inside a RG-31 armored personnel carrier during a mission to clear the roads of any potential threats

Sappers from 2nd Platoon, B Compan Battalion, make environment safe for the safe fo

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio 20th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ANED, Afghanistan - Every day, sappers from 2nd Platoon, B Company, 391st Engineer Battalion leave their forward operating base here before dawn to eliminate a threat -- improvised explosive devices.

With durable machinery made to protect the sappers from a large blast and sophisticated equipment specifically made to detect ordnance and associated materials used to make IED systems, these combat engineers seek out potential threats so U.S. service members operating in the area don't stumble upon them.

"We go out in the morning and make that road safer," said Army Sgt. Paul Hardy, an explosive ordnance-clearing agent attached to B Co. from C Company. "You know you're making a difference when you're pulling IEDs out of the middle of the road.

"We've cleared about 15 IED systems, that's not counting the pieces of ordnance that were in the system," he said. "We've saved a lot of lives, so you feel like you're a part of something that really works well."

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TURE November 14, 2005 Page 9

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ath the surface to find a potential hazard pin-

y, 391st Engineer fellow service members

pers don't just to drive down the road and find mines and said Army Sgt. Joseph Plant, a squad leader and sapper disarms or blows up IEDs for the route-clearing package. The base consists of scanning the areas near the road to find, m or eliminate threats.

s like finding a needle in a haystack, but if we all focus on me, 90 percent of the time we can find it," Hardy said. It helps increase the sappers' ability to find the explosives angle occupant four-wheel drive vehicle called the Husky, y said. Attached to the Husky is a mounted mine detector. Husky pinpoints an explosive device within a one foot and paints the area above the device with red spray paint, id. After it is painted, a sapper tries to locate any wires or devices. If the sapper cannot locate any, he uses a metal tor or knife to probe his way to the source.

Husky leads the sappers on their convoy. It's just as alle as the RG-31 or Buffalo Armed Personnel Carrier that is it, said Plant, who uses the APCs for protection to move to the source of the threat.

is vehicle has taken a double-stacked anti-tank mine and body survived it," Plant said. "These are safe vehicles."



Army Sgt. Paul Hardy, an explosive ordnance-clearing agent attached to B Company from C Co., uses a metal detector to find a potential hazard pin-pointed by the Husky mine detection vehicle.

By having dependable and safe vehicles, the sapper team is able to clear an area in a short period so other units can go on with their mission.

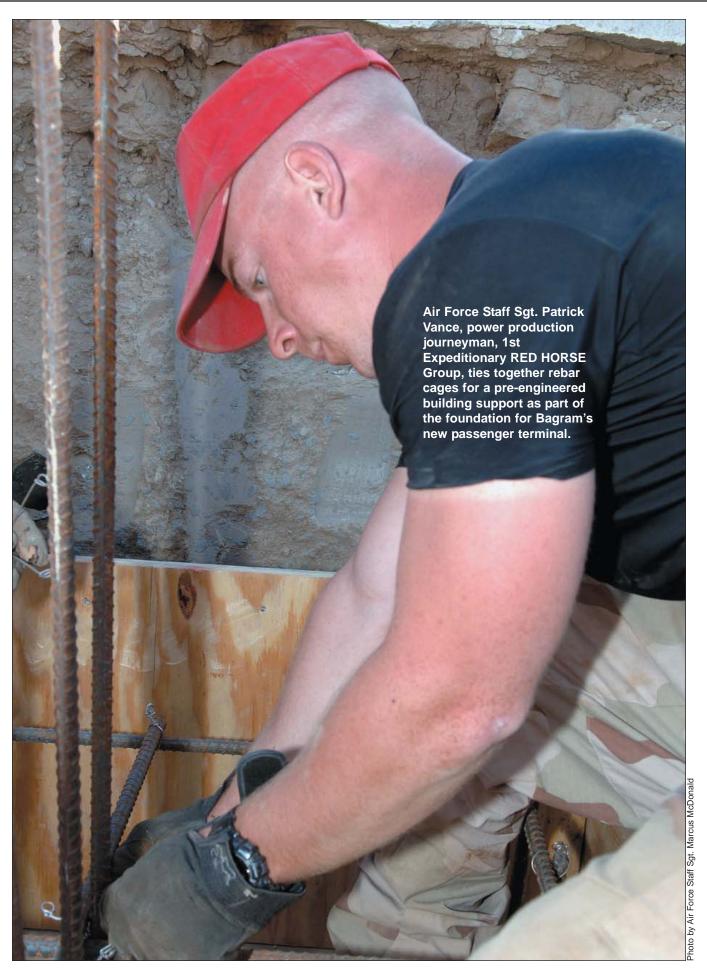
Task Force Fury and its subordinate units say the route-clearing sappers are a force multiplier, said Army 1st Sgt. Mario Cockrell, A Company, 1 Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"The route-clearance package helps us out directly as a company by providing the clearance of mines and IEDs," Cockrell said. "(The mission of the sappers) pays dividends.

"Our typical travel time going to Sharana would have been over two hours, close to three hours, and now it's just a little over an hour," he said.

Part of the reason for speeding up operations is the reconstruction of a road from Orgun-E to Sharana, Plant said. Some Bravo Company engineers along with engineers from 864th Engineer Battalion are rebuilding the road. However, the engineers who build the road don't leave their base until the road has been cleared by the route-clearing package from 2nd Platoon.

"We go out at the crack of dawn, so they can get out and do their mission," said Plant.



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Air Force Staff Sgt. David Famigiletti, pavement and heavy equipment operator, 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group, tops off the first load of landfill-bound demolished concrete at the groundbreaking of the new passenger terminal at Bagram Airfield.

Terminal to keep war fighters mission capable

By Air Force Staff Sgt.

Marcus McDonald

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

RED HORSE (rapid engineer deployable heavy operational repair squadron engineers) warriors here are laying the foundation for a \$932,000 passenger terminal designed to keep American and Coalition forces mission capable as the Global War on Terrorism continues.

In early 2006, people transiting the 7,750-square-foot facility here will notice additional space and a more secure area.

"Once this project is complete, military and civilian travelers will see a more spacious facility, which is better designed for the potential flow of more than 300 people traveling through Afghanistan's busiest hub at any one time," said Air Force 1st Lt. Megan Leitch, project officer. "Also, a new secure waiting area will give terminal administrators the opportunity to better manage flights in and out of the country."

Leitch's 24-person team is a part of the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group deployed here from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Air Force Lt. Col. Walter Fulda, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, said the new passenger terminal will ensure mission readiness.

"Our existing passenger terminal is undersized and does not meet the operational requirements of today's warfighters," said Fulda, deployed here from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. "This new passenger terminal will be the hub of a larger passenger services campus at Bagram to include a new customs facility and the newly opened USO."

Fulda said his passenger services section keeps warfighters on the move as they pursue peace throughout the country and region.

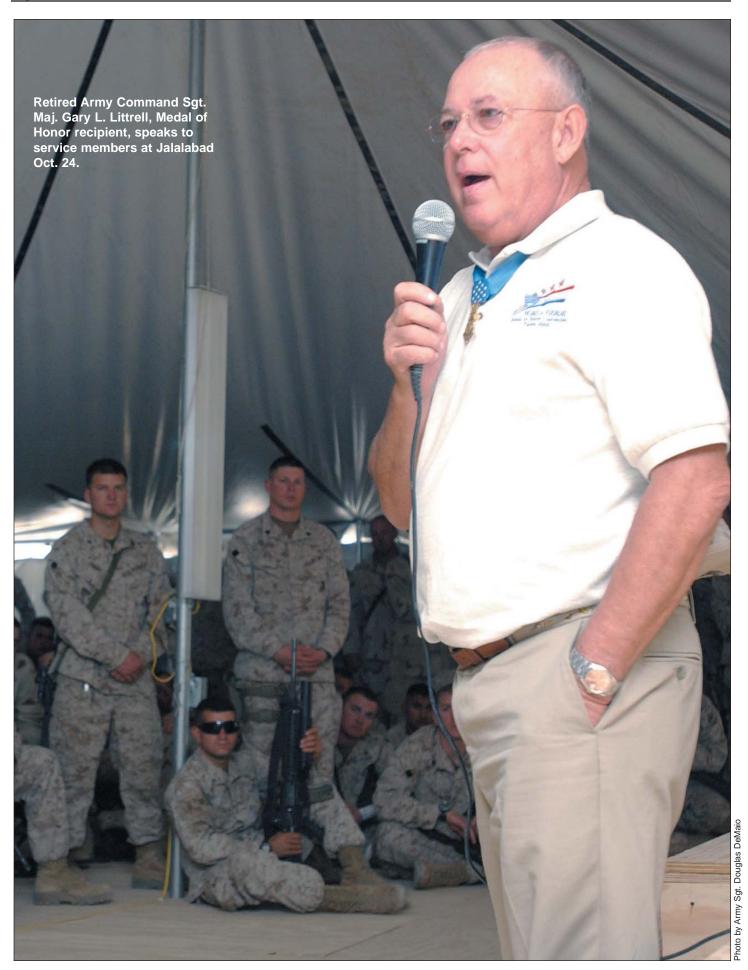
"Our role is to rapidly and accurately move people within the Afghanistan and U.S. Central Command area of responsibility," said Fulda, a native of Charleston, S.C. "From ensuring Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are deployed to their units, to making sure other warfighters get much-needed rest and recuperation

time while deployed, our passenger terminal staff gets the right people to the right place and the right time."

According to Leitch, a native of Fairfax, Va., the completion of this RED HORSE project, along with the new post office and customs office, is making way for the construction of a cargo ramp here in the summer of 2006.

In an average month, the 455th ELRS Airmen processes 8,000 people through the passenger terminal.

"Although the passenger-services responsibility belongs to our squadron, Bagram's passenger movement team includes the 14th Movement Control Team, Kellogg, Brown and Root contractors, and the Joint Personnel Reception Center," said Master Sgt. Brian Smith, passenger service noncommissioned officer in charge. "The movement of passengers is truly a joint effort and the 455th ELRS cannot perform its mission in support of deployed personnel with out the close coordination and dedication of the whole Bagram team."



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Veteran Medal of Honor recipients visit OEF service members in Jalalabad

By Army Sgt.
Douglas Demaio
20th Public Affairs
Detachment

JALALABAD,

Afghanistan - Two Medal of Honor recipients who received their medals for actions during the Vietnam War met with service members in Regional Command East Oct. 24 through 26.

Medal of Honor recipients, retired Marine Capt. John J. McGinty III and retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary L. Littrell, met with Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers at forward deployed bases in Konar, Khowst and Nangarhar provinces.

An agreement for the visit, sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, was that the two awardees would be able to meet with troops who are deployed to remote areas like Mehtar Lam and Asadabad where combat action is more common, Littrell said.

"It's really important to them," Littrell said. "They don't get many visitors out here along the border."

Earlier this year Littrell and McGinty visited with troops in Afghanistan, he said. After receiving letters about how much the troops enjoyed the visit by the Medal of Honor recipients, they were asked back for a second visit.

"Hopefully Armed Forces Entertainment will continue to sponsor us. We would like to come back every April and October," said Littrell, who served as an adviser to the Republic of Vietnam Army.

During a visit to Jalalabad, two Vietnam veterans from the Texas National Guard, who are assigned to the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, found



Medal of Honor recipient Marine Capt. John J. McGinty III speaks with fellow Vietnam veteran Army Staff Sgt. Alejandro Martinez in Jalalabad Oct. 24.

the visit of the Medal of Honor recipients to be enthralling for the service members, said Army Sgt. Isidro Ybanez and Army Staff Sgt. Alejandro Martinez.

"Having these people come over here to the PRTs, or our base camps, to visit is a great morale booster, which gives incentives for young Soldiers or young Marines to do their job well," Martinez said, who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970 as a Marine.

Ybanez, who served in Vietnam with 3rd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, a regiment that Littrell was once assigned to, said, "It shows them that someone else cares."

At the Jalalabad PRT, both McGinty and Littrell were given briefings on the progress of civil-military cooperation for improving Afghanistan's infrastructure.

McGinty and Littrell said

that they could see some parallels between Vietnam and Afghanistan. Some of the Department of State programs designed to build community infrastructure and the training of the national army seem similar to the programs implemented during the Vietnam War.

After the briefing, service members were given the opportunity to ask the Medal of Honor recipients questions and learn a little bit of Medal of Honor trivia.

Questions ranging from living through their near death experience to which president presented them with the medal were posed to McGinty and Littrell, but most of the service members were just excited to meet the men and get their picture taken with them, Ybanez said.

"It's a real pleasure to meet them," said Ybanez said. "These are fine gentlemen."



Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary L. Littrell and retired Marine Capt. John J. McGinty III, Medal of Honor recipients, greet Army Apache pilots during their visit to Jalalabad. Oct. 24-26.

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Sailor saves Air Force medic's life

By Air Force Capt. Eric Badger 379th Air Expeditionary Wing

SOUTHWEST ASIA - For a Navy maintainer and Air Force medic, stationed at a forward-deployed location here, their first meeting was an unforgettable one.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Lego, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One structural mechanic, performed the Heimlich maneuver on Lt. Col. Lois MacDonald, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group Medical Operations Flight commander, when she choked during her meal Oct. 28 at a base dining facility.

"I had aspirated a piece of potato which caused the obstruction," MacDonald said. "Petty Officer Lego immediately recognized that I was in distress."

According to Lego, a former Heimlich

maneuver instructor, he had just finished getting his dinner and was preparing to find a place to sit when he noticed the colonel standing near the salad bar.

"She was hunched over as if something was wrong," he said. "But she didn't look like she was choking, and she wasn't in a panic. So I walked over to her to find out what was wrong."

According to the colonel, Lego followed the choking patient protocol perfectly.

"He asked if I was okay, and I shook my head no," she said. "He asked me if I could speak, and I shook my head no. He then told me to relax as best I could and he was going to help me."

Within seconds, he performed the Heimlich maneuver. After two thrusts, the food was successfully dislodged.

"After making sure I was OK, Petty

Officer Lego went about his business as if to say this was just another day at the office for him," MacDonald said. "As a medic myself, I have the deepest respect for his actions and reaction to the situation. He is truly a hero."

To show her appreciation for his life-saving actions, MacDonald and Lt. Col. Daniel Flynn, 379th EMDG deputy commander, presented Lego with a certificate of appreciation Nov. 1. The petty officer also received a 379th Expeditionary Medical Group coin from Flynn and a 379th Air Expeditionary Wing coin from Col. Ted Kresge, 379th AEW commander.

"I was happy to be able to help her," Lego said. "In her line of work, she saves lives every day. It is nice to return the favor."

Navy recognized for learning innovation

By Jon Gagne Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Vice Adm. Kevin Moran, commander, Naval Education and Training Command and the Navy's chief learning officer, accepted on behalf of the Navy, the Pioneer in Learning Award at the Learning 2005 Consortium in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 31, in recognition of the Navy's vision and leadership in transforming the way it trains and educates Sailors.

The event hosted more than 1,500 learning and training professionals from business organizations and government agencies, and focused on defining and recognizing excellence in the future of elearning through innovation.

The Pioneer Award recognizes the Navy's visionary efforts in streamlining its education and training processes through the Revolution in Training and the creation of the Integrated Learning Environment, both of which have helped to transform the Navy into a world-class learning organization. Previous recent winners of this award include corporations like Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Home Depot, McDonald's, Century 21 Real

Estate and Verizon Telecommunications.

"The Navy has truly been a pioneer in transforming the way it trains and educates its personnel," said Elliot Masie, founder of the Masie Center of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., which sponsored the Learning 2005 Consortium. "The ILE concept of providing world-class education and training for its personnel is truly visionary in scope for an organization the size of the Navy," Masie said. "The ILE also serves as a model of ingenuity and innovation for the Department of Defense and business corporations around the world in competing for the best possible talent in an increasingly competitive landscape."

"A large part of the ILE," Masie added, "and what we feel is so visionary about the Navy's efforts, is the 5 Vector Model the Navy has implemented. This program crafts a personal and professional roadmap uniquely tailored to each Sailor and Navy civilian. It also charts an individual's career progress and identifies learning resources that lead to achieving certain career milestones."

The consortium also recognized the Navy's progress in its training and education transformation through the creation of the Naval Personnel and Development Command and its 14 different training centers and three support centers, as well as the development of the Navy Knowledge Online Sea Warrior Web portal. With more than 500,000 registered users, NKO serves as the primary vehicle to help create and foster a dynamic learning environment, tying together NKO, Navy e-learning and the 5VM to manage Sailors' professional and personal development, providing access at anytime from anywhere in the world.

"This recognition from the corporate education and learning private sector for our accomplishments in transforming the way we educate and train our Navy people reinforces that we are heading in the right direction as an organization that's committed to continuously improving how we operate," said Moran. "The Navy's vision of transformation for the 21st century encompasses the same principles and the latest advances in technology that corporations are now using to train and educate their work force. Sharing these processes through open discussion and networking at events such as the Learning 2005 Consortium is mutually beneficial for everyone involved."

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Above: The largest pole barn in Afghanistan stands completed on Bagram Airfield. The barn was built by the Republic of Korea's Engineer Corps.

Below: ROK engineers use a crane to hoist a section of the pole barn during construction.



Project complete

By Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk

20th Public Affairs Detachment

Using 240,000 nails, many yards of concrete and more wood than any other structure in Afghanistan, the Republic of Korea Engineers completed construction on the largest pole barn in Afghanistan on Oct. 25.

The barn took seven weeks to build, and will be used to store construction materials. After completion of the project, the ROK Engineers held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new pole barn.

"This pole barn is the largest wooden structure in Afghanistan and is a great credit to the Korean Engineers and their expertise," said Army Col. Michael Flanagan, 18th Engineer Brigade commander.

